

Warden Message

November 18, 2009

Dear Warden and/or Registrant:

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and Consulate General in Guayaquil wish to inform American citizens visiting or residing in Ecuador that on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, Massachusetts will hold a special primary election to fill the vacancy left as a result of the passing of **Senator Edward M. Kennedy**. A special State election will follow on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

Massachusetts jurisdictions are currently express mailing ballots to military and overseas voters. If you receive the regular State ballot, follow the instructions provided with the ballot. There will be an address form included with the State of Massachusetts' express mail number for returning the voted ballot. Vote and return it immediately! Note: Expedited mail may not be available to all locations (See eligible Zip Codes at: http://ribbs.usps.gov/apo_fpo/documents/tech_guides/EMMSdirectory.pdf.)

If you have not received the regular State ballot, use the FWAB now and return it by email, fax, or mail.

Although local election officials began mailing ballots on November 9, 2009 do not wait until you receive it! Massachusetts allows you to use the FWAB as a simultaneous ballot request and ballot even if you have not applied for a State absentee ballot (registration is waived). The FWAB is available from your Voting Assistance Officer or at www.fvap.gov.

Get started by following the prompts at www.fvap.gov to complete the FWAB. Vote the ballot by using the official candidates list below or write-in the name of a candidate of your choice. No witness or notary is required.

Democratic Party Candidates:

Michael E. Capuano
Martha Coakley
Alan A. Khazei
Stephen G. Pagliuca

Republican Party Candidates:

Scott P. Brown
Jack E. Robinson

Libertarian

None

See additional candidate's information at http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elespeif/senatorincongressma_can.htm

If you are faxing or emailing the voted ballot, you must waive the right to secrecy of the ballot. You must sign and date a statement on the Electronic Transmission Sheet available at www.fvap.gov/resources/media/coversheet.pdf indicating, "I understand that by faxing or emailing my voted ballot I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot."

To return your FWAB by email, email the voted ballot along with your voter affirmation and Electronic Transmission Sheet as a scanned attachment directly to your Town or City Clerk.

To return your FWAB by fax, fax the voted ballot along with your voter affirmation and Electronic Transmission Sheet directly to your Town or City Clerk.

Email and Fax numbers can be found at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elecclk/clkidx.htm. If email or fax is not available use the DoD Electronic Transmission Service to email or fax your FWAB:

- Email the FWAB along with your voter affirmation and Electronic Transmission Sheet as a scanned attachment to ets@fvap.ncr.gov. It will be forwarded to the local election office you indicate.

OR

- Fax the FWAB along with your voter affirmation, and Electronic Transmission Sheet to: (703)-693-5527, DSN 223-5527, or toll-free (from the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to 1-800-368-8683). International toll-free fax numbers can be found at www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreefax.html.

To return your FWAB by mail, insert the sealed security envelope and the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation into the mailing envelope and mail the ballot directly to your Town or City Clerk. Addresses can be found at www.fvap.gov/contact/addresses/maaddr.html.

Your ballot or FWAB must be received by your Town or City Clerk by **8 pm on December 8, 2009**.

Recommended Mailing Dates for Your Voted Ballot

You should mail your ballot by the following dates to account for mail delivery times. If you receive the regular State ballot after submitting the FWAB, follow the instructions provided with the ballot, vote and return it immediately! If both ballots are received by the deadline, only the State ballot will be counted.

- Voters in Iraq, Afghanistan, on ships at sea, and other overseas locations without access to the military postal system should mail voted ballots by November 6, 2009 or as soon as possible.
- Voters in other overseas military installations should mail voted ballots by November 14, 2009 or as soon as possible.
- Stateside Uniformed Service members and their families should mail voted ballots by November 30, 2009.

For More Information: Go to the Massachusetts election website at: www.sec.state.ma.us or visit FVAP at: www.fvap.gov.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the [State Department's travel registration website](#), and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Please see the following links for local warden message information in Quito and Guayaquil, respectively, <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/> and <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/>.

U.S. citizens should consult the Country Specific Information for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the Department's web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) is (011) 593 2 398 5000 X3800. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. See also the Embassy web site at <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/>. American Citizen walk-in hours are between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, excluding U.S. and Ecuadorian holidays.

The U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies; fax (011-593-4) 232-0904. See the Consulate General web site at <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/>